

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

28 FEB. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Berlin

a. Yesterday the Soviets filed flight plans for the southern corridor today: four outbound and four inbound. The last flight is scheduled to start at 0941 EST. An interesting innovation is that morning and afternoon flights begin and end, respectively, in the Berlin end of the north corridor. One French, one UK and two US flights were scheduled to fly round trips in the corridor in the opposite direction from the Soviet flights during the periods scheduled. No incidents were reported by 0830 EST.

b. Ambassador Thompson believes that the Soviets, having met Western firmness on the air corridor question, are likely to shift probes to another access question, possibly autobahns. He feels the Soviets may believe the West is prepared in the final analysis to accept the East Germans as agents of the USSR and will not therefore react decisively to partial steps in this direction.

c. [redacted]

[redacted] the Communists have put themselves in a more favorable position to harass rail and water traffic if they choose to do so. They have removed one track of a double track line between Berlin and Potsdam and are engaging in repairs on important locks in the Berlin canal system.

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2. Laos

a. We have no reports on the Souvanna-Souphannouvong talks. [REDACTED]

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3. Food shortages in North Vietnam

They are most severe in the northwest highlands of North Vietnam where there have been requests for permission to sell rice to the hungry. Seed rice has been consumed and peasants are arriving at storage points without having eaten for four or five days. Two years of bad crops and a faulty distribution system have also contributed to food problems throughout the remainder of the country. [REDACTED]

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4. Indian attitudes on
North Vietnam

Indian officials, in discussions with Ambassadors Bowles and Galbraith, expressed the belief that Hanoi is concerned over the ascendancy of Chinese influence arising from the situation in South Vietnam. According to this view, which reflects the thinking of the Indian ICC chairman, North Vietnam sees itself the loser in any expansion of conflict and if a Laotian settlement is reached might agree to some approach through the Indians for a settlement in South Vietnam. We suspect that fear of an expanding conflict in Vietnam is leading the Indians to be over optimistic regarding North Vietnam's willingness to pull in its horns.

5. South Vietnam
assassination post
mortem

they believe they were part of a larger plot in which a military uprising of some sort would accompany their attack on Diem's palace. There have been arrests of persons implicated by the captured pilot, but details are not yet complete.

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NOTES

- A. In a restricted meeting with US press correspondents French Premier Debre, who is reported planning to seek leadership of the political right after the Algerian settlement, was strongly critical of American policy in general, particularly towards underdeveloped countries and on nuclear questions. 50X1
- B. Afghanistan has rejected a Pakistani proposal, [redacted] for a settlement of their difficulties by mutual recognition of one another's territorial integrity. This would have required the Afghans to give up their claims to Pushtoonistan. 50X1
[redacted] 50X1
- C. Brazil is [redacted] formulating a plan for "federal participation" in telephone service throughout the country.
- D. Guatemalan President Ydigoras yesterday announced his intention to visit Miami and Washington in mid-April. 50X1
- E. The Burmese politely declined an Indonesian invitation to meddle in U Thant's conduct of West New Guinea negotiations. [redacted] 50X1
- F. UN Secretary General U Thant plans to attend the 18-nation disarmament conference if it is a heads-of-state meeting; otherwise he will send his Under-Secretary for Political Affairs--Loutfi of the UAR. [redacted] 50X1
- [redacted]

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE